...One More Day

DONATE LIFE®

ROSE PARADE® FLOAT

EST. 2004

2012 COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK

PASADENA
TOURNAMENT
of ROSES

LIFE

DONATE
LIFE

DONOR
VIDA
DONOR
DONATE
LIFE
DONOR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORDS OF WELCOME 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 6

MAP OF PASADENA 7

DONATE LIFE FLOAT HISTORY 8

2012 DONATE LIFE FLOAT 9

2012 FLOAT RIDERS 10

2012 FLORAGRAPH HONOREES 16

CONTACTS, NOTES, AND SCRAPBOOKING PAGES 30

OUR SPONSORS 34

ONELEGACY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Hedi Aguiar
Christina Courtney
Elena de la Cruz
Sabrina Ho
Kathleen Hostert
Sandra Madera
Sonia Navarro
Erika Ospina Awad
Luis Ramirez
Bryan Stewart
Tenaya Wallace

WELCOME TO PASADENA!

We are so very excited that you are here to join us! Whether you are here to celebrate your second chance at life, honor and celebrate a loved one's legacy, or are just inspired to be a part of this remarkable experience, we welcome you!

We hope that your time in Pasadena becomes a cherished memory that you hold dear to your heart for years to come. If there is anything we can do to help make your experience more memorable, please do not hesitate to ask.

To help you remember this remarkably emotional and at times overwhelming experience, we invite you to take this yearbook with you to companion you along the way. We hope that you will find an abundance of useful information along with the opportunity to write down your thoughts, collect pictures, and record contact information of your new life-long friends.

We welcome you to the Donate Life Rose Parade Float family and hope that you will look back on your experience years from now and your heart will be warmed by the wonderful memories made during your journey to Pasadena.

Warmest Wishes,

Donate Life Rose Parade Float Committee

DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT COMMITTEE

Bryan Stewart
Glenn Abercrombie
Thomas Asfeldt, RN, BAN, MBA
Rivian Bell
Christina Courtney
Esther-Marie Carmichael
John Dean
Luz Diaz
Steve Ferkau
Gary Foxen
Mary Ganikos
Kathleen Hostert
Rebecca Hunter
Stephanie Jansky
Kari Kozuki
Karen Libs
Randa Lipman
Sandra Madera
Virginia McBride
Betty McNamara
Tom Mone
Kevin Monroe
Erika Ospina Award
Lisa Rhodes
Renee Rhodes
Amy Waterman, Ph.D.

TO READERS OF THIS YEARBOOK:

I have been asked to contribute to the pages of this wonderful memento of the 2012 Donate Life Rose Parade Float with a few words of thought on what the project has meant to my wife (Lois) and me (an organ recipient) as the folks who conceived the idea of having a Donate Life float in the Rose Parade; no easy task.

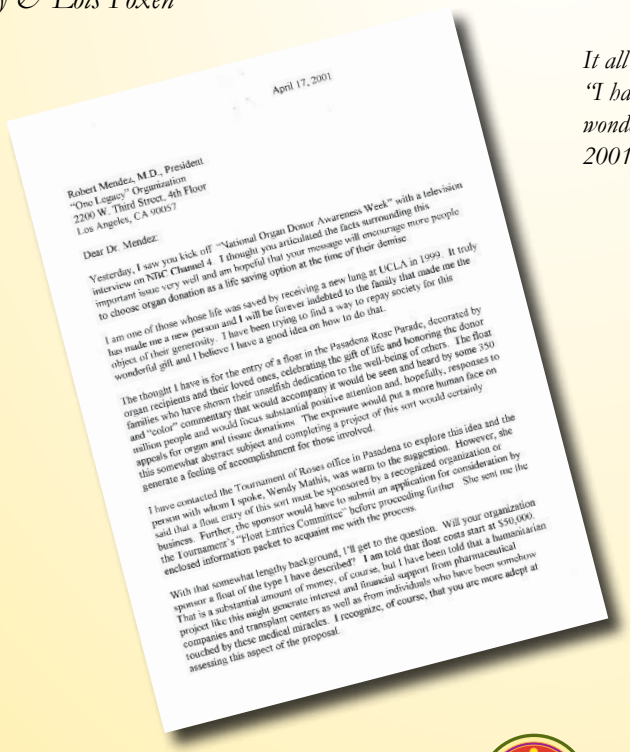
First, I must tell you that this heavenly inspired project would never have gotten off the ground were it not for the emotional and practical support of a lady named Karen Libs who worked for OneLegacy, the organization who sponsors our float. She took my idea and was determined to see it become the remarkable tradition that many of you have now become part of. She continues to shepherd the float as if it were a beloved child.

Karen, Lois and I saw the tremendous promise of this effort to be perhaps one of, if not the most, inspirational and effective ways to bring the still mysterious, life-saving aspects of organ and tissue donation to the public's attention while shining a light on the generosity of those who have saved lives by giving of themselves or their deceased loved ones. It is gratifying to see how right we were.

Over the last eight, now nine, years of working on our float and seeing it roll down Colorado Boulevard at the beginning of the New Year in Pasadena, we have been witness to hundreds of stories of courage, compassion and gratitude from organ recipients, donors and donor families who have shared their experiences with us and the world, and this year we will have heard more. Each time we leave Pasadena we go with a bruised heart for those who lost loved ones but also with the zest for life by seeing recipients like me prosper.

We are indeed a chosen few. God bless and keep you all,

Gary & Lois Foxen



April 17, 2001

Robert Mendez, M.D., President
"One Legacy" Organization
2200 W. Third Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dear Dr. Mendez:

Yesterday, I saw you kick off "National Organ Donor Awareness Week" with a television interview on NBC Channel 4. I thought you articulated the facts surrounding this important issue very well and am hopeful that your message will encourage more people to choose organ donation as a life saving option at the time of their demise.

I am one of those whose life was saved by receiving a new lung at UCLA in 1999. It truly has made me a new person and I will be forever indebted to the family that made me the object of their generosity. I have been trying to find a way to repay society for this wonderful gift and I believe I have a good idea on how to do that.

The thought I have is for the entry of a float in the Pasadena Rose Parade, decorated by organ recipients and their loved ones, celebrating the gift of life and honoring the donor families who have shown their unselfish dedication to the well-being of others. The float and "color" commentary that would accompany it would be seen and heard by some 350 million people and would focus substantial positive attention and, hopefully, responses to appeals for organ and tissue donations. The exposure would put a more human face on this somewhat abstract subject and completing a project of this sort would certainly generate a feeling of accomplishment for those involved.

I have contacted the Tournament of Roses office in Pasadena to explore this idea and the person with whom I spoke, Wendy Mathis, was warm to the suggestion. However, she said that a float entry of this sort must be sponsored by a recognized organization or business. Further, the sponsor would have to submit an application for consideration by the Tournament's "Float Entries Committee" before proceeding further. She sent me the enclosed information packet to acquaint me with the process.

With that somewhat lengthy background, I'll get to the question. Will your organization sponsor a float of the type I have described? I am told that float costs start at $50,000. That is a substantial amount of money, of course, but I have been told that a humanitarian project like this might generate interest and financial support from pharmaceutical companies and transplant centers as well as from individuals who have been somehow touched by these medical miracles. I recognize, of course, that you are more adept at assessing this aspect of the proposal.

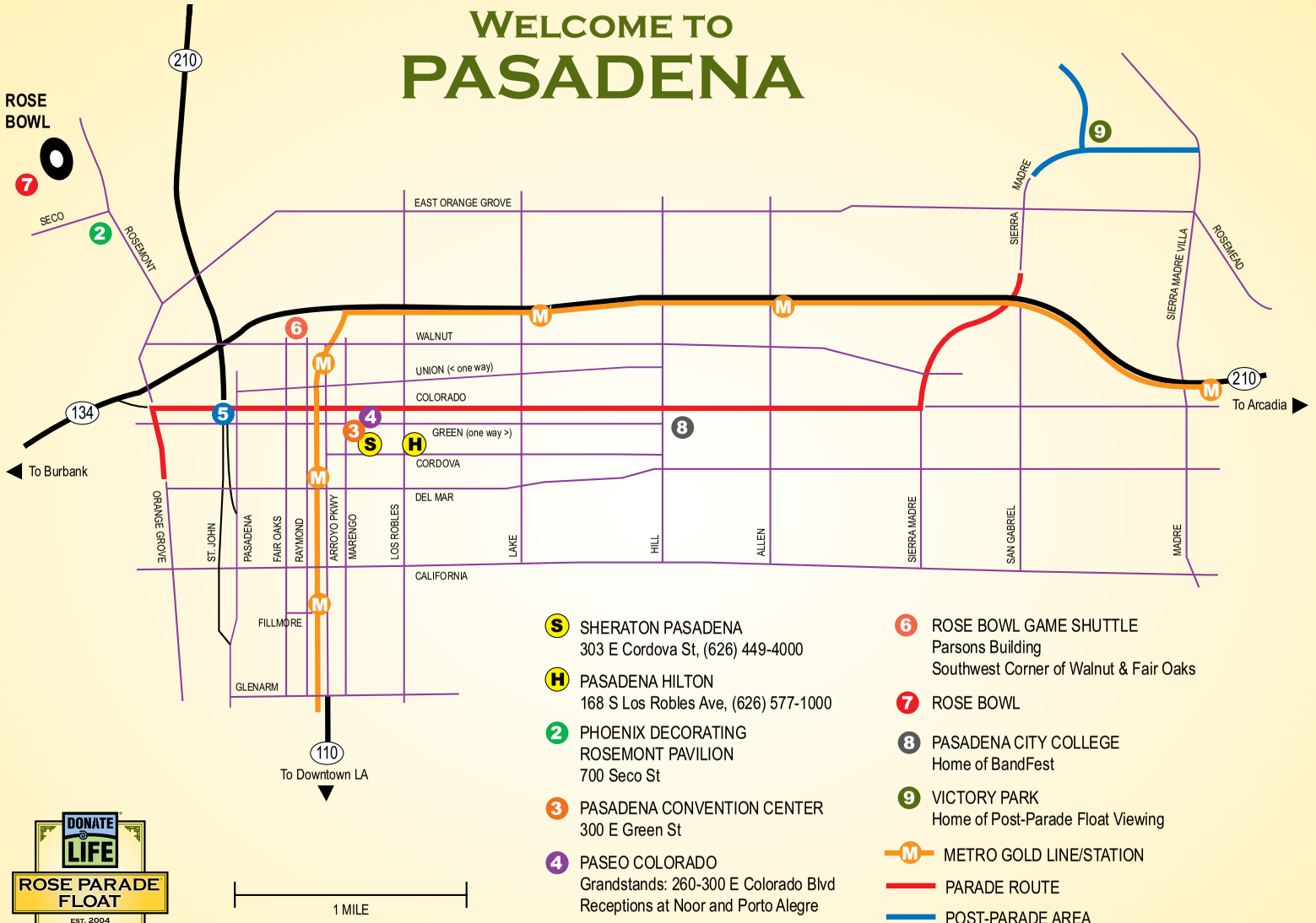
It all started with an idea and a letter from Gary Foxen. "I have been trying to find a way to repay society for this wonderful gift [of life]," wrote Gary Foxen on April 17, 2001. "I believe I have a good idea on how to do that."

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAT DEC 3	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
SAT DEC 10	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
SAT DEC 17	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
MON DEC 26	8am–3pm, 3pm–9pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
TUE DEC 27	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
WED DEC 28	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
THU DEC 29	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Floral Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
	10am–10pm	Dedication Garden Rose Placement	Rosemont Pavilion
	5pm-8pm	Float Rider Dinner	Noor at Paseo Colorado
FRI DEC 30	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Floral Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
	10am-12pm	Floragraph Family Brunch	Noor at Paseo Colorado
	6pm–11pm	Donate Life Gala Dinner	Pasadena Convention Center
SAT DEC 31	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Floral Decorating*	Rosemont Pavilion
SUN JAN 1	8am–1pm	Decorating – Final Touches	Rosemont Pavilion
	12pm–2pm	Lunch at Rosemont	Rosemont Pavilion
	2:30pm–4:30pm	Float Judging	Rosemont Pavilion
MON JAN 2	8am–10:30am	123rd Rose Parade	Colorado Blvd.
	10:30am–12:30pm	Post-Parade Reception	Porto Alegre at Paseo Colorado
	2pm	98th Rose Bowl Game	Rose Bowl

* Float decorating and judging at Phoenix Decorating Rosemont Pavilion, 700 Seco Street, Pasadena CA 91103; Schedule subject to change

WELCOME TO PASADENA



DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT EST. 2004

S SHERATON PASADENA
303 E Cordova St, (626) 449-4000

H PASADENA HILTON
168 S Los Robles Ave, (626) 577-1000

2 PHOENIX DECORATING
ROSEMONT PAVILION
700 Seco St

3 PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER
300 E Green St

4 PASEO COLORADO
Grandstands: 260-300 E Colorado Blvd
Receptions at Noor and Porto Alegre

5 DONATE LIFE WEST GRANDSTANDS
235 W Colorado Blvd (North Side)
240 W Colorado Blvd (South Side)

6 ROSE BOWL GAME SHUTTLE
Parsons Building
Southwest Corner of Walnut & Fair Oaks

7 ROSE BOWL

8 PASADENA CITY COLLEGE
Home of BandFest

9 VICTORY PARK
Home of Post-Parade Float Viewing

M METRO GOLD LINE/STATION

PARADE ROUTE

POST-PARADE AREA

INSPIRING THE WORLD SINCE 2004

A SYMPHONY OF LIFE
2004

MANY FAMILIES, ONE GIFT
2005

LIFE TRANSFORMED
2006

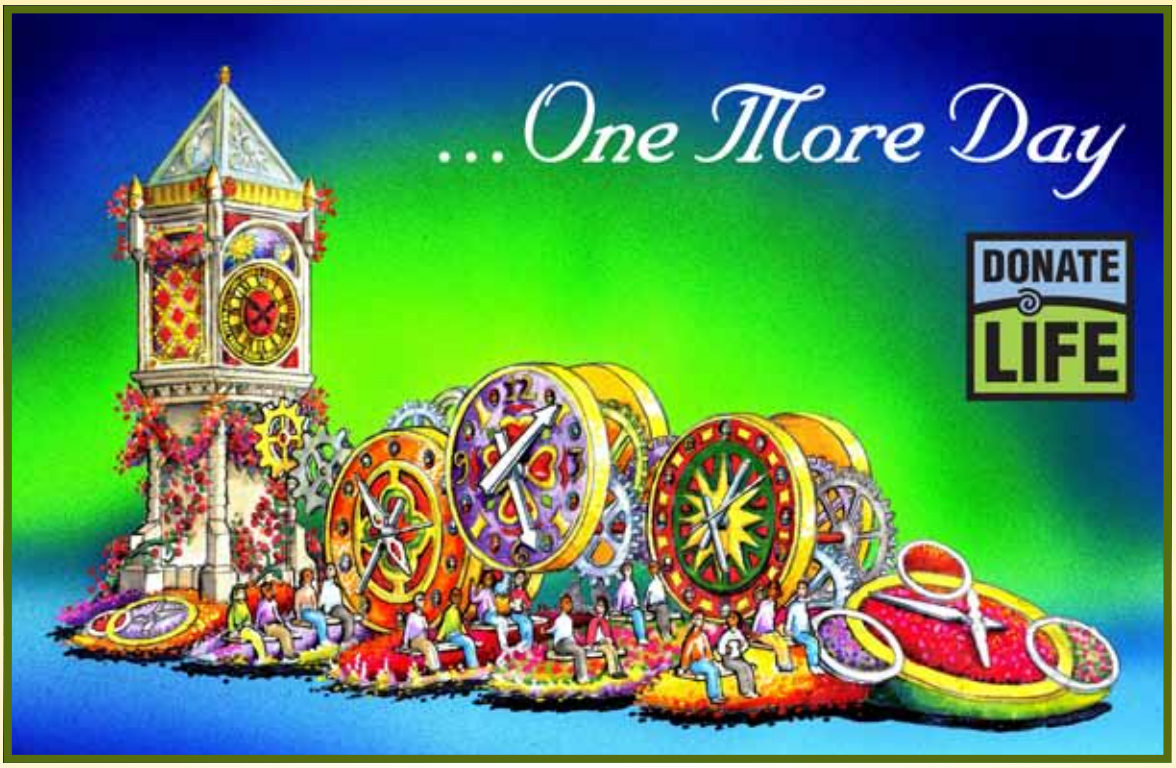
GIVING FROM THE HEART
2007

LIFE TAKES FLIGHT
2008 SPECIAL JUDGES' TROPHY

STARS OF LIFE
2009 QUEENS TROPHY

NEW LIFE RISES
2010 THEME TROPHY

SEIZE THE DAY!
2011 THEME TROPHY



Inspired by floral clocks and clock towers of the world, Donate Life's ninth Rose Parade float entry carries 28 riders representing deceased organ, eye and tissue donors, living donors, and transplant recipients reminding us all to make every day count.

Six floral clocks are adorned with 72 memorial 'floragraph' portraits of deceased donors, whose gifts of organs and tissues add years and quality of life to those in need of transplants. Gears run the length of the float to a 33-foot clock tower with an animated sun/moon dial marking the passing of "**...One More Day.**" Leading the float is a dedication garden honoring thousands of organ, eye and tissue donors and recipients nationwide, with a rose vials carrying personal messages of love, hope and remembrance.

Through their life-changing experiences, the families of organ and tissue donors, living donors, and recipients of life-saving transplants know intimately the preciousness of time. Donate Life invites everyone to imagine "...One More Day" to remember a loved one, celebrate life, keep hope alive, and make a difference to others.

The opportunity to live, or relive, a precious moment in time inspires us to just imagine "...One More Day" when donor families are reunited with loved ones, transplant recipients thrive, and living and registered donors step forward so that a life-saving transplant is available to everyone in need.

Donate Life hopes millions of parade viewers and spectators are inspired to take just a few minutes to make a difference that lasts a lifetime. Don't let one more day go by without joining more than 100 million Americans who have registered as organ, eye and tissue donors. Sign up today by visiting Donate Life America at www.donatelife.net.

DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT
FLOAT RIDERS CLASS OF 2012

The 28 riders aboard "...One More Day" represent millions of people touched by organ and tissue donation, including donor families, living donors, transplant recipients and transplant candidates.

GAENA CHO

LOS ANGELES, CA

Cherity Cho was born March 24, 2008; Gaena and Arnold Song-Cho expected a healthy baby. However, an ultrasound indicated that Cherity's kidneys did not function. After a year and a half surviving on peritoneal dialysis, Cherity received a transplant, but afterwards developed an infection and the kidney was removed. After another year of dialysis, Cherity was ready for her second transplant, and in November 2010, Gaena successfully donated a kidney to her daughter. "I am so very thankful for Cherity's first kidney donor, whose great gift of love helped Cherity survive," said Gaena.

SUSAN R. COSSABONE

EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ

Susan Cossabone always had a gift with horses and a passion for riding. This all changed in 2009, when a car struck her vehicle head on. Susan's badly injured leg was saved with titanium rods. "I hoped I would walk again," she said, but was told her riding days were over. Later, the metal rods broke and the doctors discussed amputation, but Susan refused to accept it. In April 2010, her doctor applied AlloStem® Bone Growth Substitute to try to jump-start her body's reproduction of bone in the injured leg. By December, bone began to grow. By January 2011, Susan's leg no longer risked amputation, and in the spring, Susan realized her initial goal: walking again. She looks forward to returning to her passion of horseback riding.

MARY ELLEN DECKER

LOS ANGELES, CA

Mary Ellen Decker's experience with donation began with a heartbreaking start. Her son Seth was 21 years old when on a beautiful September afternoon in 2005, he tragically took his own life. Seth's life ended much too soon but he generously gave the greatest gift of life to six people, including a lovely three year old girl who loves to dance. "We miss our son deeply, however, we know now the importance of donation and the positive impact it can have," said Mary Ellen. "The recipients are truly grateful for their gift of life."

JUAN ESPINO

FORT WORTH, TX

Juan Espino knows all too well that life can change in an instant. In February 2010, Espino and his wife, Stella, were preparing to celebrate 25 years of marriage when she suddenly suffered a brain hemorrhage. She died just three days later. In life, Stella was known for her love of helping others, and the same was true following her death. Stella's dying wish was that her organs be donated. Stella's donation, which included her heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, bones, tissue and corneas, saved eight lives and helped 85 others. Espino is now a "Vital Volunteer" with LifeGift, and says that he volunteers because "it's all about saving a life."

EMILY FENNELL

YUBA CITY, CA

Emily Fennell lost her right hand after it was crushed in a roll-over car accident in June 2006. After the amputation, occupational therapists helped her learn how to use her left hand for all tasks. She tried a prosthetic hand and a traditional "hook" prosthesis, but stopped using them because they did not provide the functionality she desired. She always missed doing the "little things" that get taken for granted, so she researched hand transplantation. Fennell's transplant was made possible by the generosity of the family of a deceased donor. "I cannot thank my donor enough for this amazing gift," Fennell said. "It's helping me feel whole again, and I intend to use it to the fullest."

VALERIE FOURTUNIA

BEAUMONT, TX

"Mikey was born ready to embrace life," said his mother Valerie Fourtunia. "He was such an adventurer, full of love, always ready for the next thrill." Mike's favorite thing was riding a motorcycle. He was 22 years old when he was involved in a fatal car accident. Being a donor was something Valerie and Mike had talked about and something they wanted to do, especially since Mike was a tissue recipient. Valerie said Mike was very adventurous and had no fear, but at the same time was a very deep thinker who was full of love and kindness. That's why it was fitting that Mike became a donor after his accident.

CLAUDIA GERLACH

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

Ali Gerlach was born determined to live life to the fullest. She had a deep respect for all life. It was no surprise when Ali brought up the subject of organ donation at a young age. She told her mother that she would want to be an organ donor if anything ever happened to her. On January 26, 2003, Ali was taken to the hospital with right-sided weakness. Doctors diagnosed Ali as having Moyamoya disease. Ali went into a coma two days later and the doctors approached the Gerlachs about organ donation. "Knowing Ali's wishes, we were able to make the right decision," said Claudia. Ali's donation saved five lives. In life and death, Ali continues to make a difference in people's lives.

ROXANNA GREEN

TUCSON, AZ

Born September 11, 2001, Christina-Taylor Green developed a sense of caring and hope for others as she grew up. The Greens discussed organ donation when Christina-Taylor's grandmother passed away. They decided as a family they would all be organ donors. "We're grateful we did. When Christina-Taylor passed away, we were grief stricken," recounted Roxanna. The Greens agreed to donate whatever they could. This was a difficult decision even after discussing organ donation before Christina's passing. "We will never forget the uplifting of our spirits when we received the news that Christina's corneas saved the eyesight of two people," said Roxanna. Christina would be proud of the legacy she has left behind. Roxanna is proud to ride on the Donate Life float to honor her daughter and to encourage cornea, organ and tissue donation.

JIM HAEMMERLE, MD

SAVAGE, MN

In February of 2010, Jim Haemmerle donated his left kidney to someone he had never met. Like many people, Jim had regularly checked the organ donor option when renewing his driver's license, but being an orthopedic surgeon, he knew that this was not a guarantee that his organs could be used after his death. For a few years, Jim thought about being a living kidney donor. "It just felt like the right thing to do for a fellow human being." After the surgery, Jim felt that he gained much more from the experience than he had given. "I'm aware every day that life is a precious gift."

LINDA HENNING

CROSSVILLE, IL

Cadet Marc Henning was a senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, served as head manager of the Falcon football team and was active in Engineers Without Borders. He was developing into a genuinely liked and respected leader. As Linda and Van Henning, Marc's parents, and his brothers surrounded Marc's bed the night before he died, they were unaware of the impact he would have on others just hours later. Marc's organ and tissue donation helped save four lives, and heal countless others, including his own mother. Linda became the recipient of Marc's bone as a graft for a tooth implant. "Marc again became a part of me," said Linda.

JOEY IANIERO

BLOOMSBURG, PA

Second baseman Joey Ianiero hoped to make it to the Major Leagues. During a game, Joey was turning a double play when the runner crashed into his left knee, tearing his ACL, MCL and meniscus. Joey returned to the playing field just four months after having his knee reconstructed with the help of a tendon from a deceased donor. Around Thanksgiving, Joey's mom wrote a letter to the donor family. Six months later, unaware his mom wrote the letter, Joey received a Facebook friend request from Brandon Witt. "He wanted me to know that I had received his deceased father's tendon," said Joey. The gift Joey received from Brandon's father allowed him to return to the game he loves, led him to a "ride of a lifetime" by Brandon's side in the Rose Parade, and forever improved his quality of life.

CORA JOHNSON

CERRITOS, CA

Cora and Bob married in 1970; they knew nothing of the wild ride they would experience over the course of several decades. Bob had his first heart attack in 1990 and was placed on the transplant waiting list in 2000. A year later, Bob received a new heart, and Cora and Bob became active Mended Hearts and Donate Life Ambassadors volunteers to educate the community about organ donation. After eight additional years together, Bob passed away in 2009. Cora is one of the "Golden Girls," six senior women who are among the most active Donate Life Ambassadors. Her passion for the Donate Life mission has enriched her life beyond measure. "It is a great feeling to be able to help others," says Cora.

JANICE LANGBEHN

OLYMPIA, WA

As life partners dedicated to serving others, Janice Langbehn and Lisa Marie Pond fostered 25 children, legally adopting four of them by 2005. In February 2007, Lisa, then 39 years old, was with Janice and three of the children in Miami for a family cruise when she suddenly collapsed. She suffered a cerebral aneurysm which went undetected for years. Due to the life partners' non-married status, Janice and her children were prohibited from seeing Lisa in her final hours, leading to a directive from President Obama that hospitals allow gay and lesbian family members access to their hospitalized partners. Fortunately, Lisa had made it clear that her organs could be used to help others. "As a donor family member, I am proud to be just a small piece of Lisa's legacy," Janice affirmed.

LYNN LIVINGSTON

PLAINFIELD, IN

In September 2000, while attending her hometown's annual parade, Lynn Wingler Livingston donated blood at the blood mobile. The following week, Lynn received a letter from the Indiana Blood Center. It stated that her liver enzymes were highly elevated and she should see her doctor immediately. Lynn was diagnosed with a rare liver disease and would eventually need a liver transplant. On May 26, 2008 she finally received her call that a donor liver was available. Lynn is now three-and-a-half years post-transplant and says, "My life has changed forever!" She is a full-time volunteer for Indiana Organ Procurement Organization and Donate Life Indiana. "It's my mission to educate everyone I meet about the importance of donation," says Lynn.

STEPHANIE L. MCMACKIN

FULLERTON, CA

One day in 1970, Stephanie McMackin turned yellow and began itching. That was the first day of her 20-year battle with liver disease. In January, 1990, Stephanie's health had deteriorated to the point that she was put on the transplant waiting list. Twelve weeks later, Stephanie received a liver transplant, and for the first time, her teenage children saw her healthy. Stephanie has been doing her best to "pay it forward" by serving as a Donate Life Ambassador volunteer with OneLegacy for many years. "Every Mother's Day, I think of my donor's mother missing her child," said Stephanie. "I am taking very good care of their daughter and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for blessing me with their most unselfish gift of life."

NANCY MICHAELS

CONCORD, MA

A single mother of three children, Nancy Michaels is a consummate survivor. While traveling for business in 2005, she became ill. Upon her return, Nancy was hospitalized for an unexpected and fast-acting case of complete liver failure. Following an emergency liver transplant, she fell into a two-month coma and lost custody of her three children. Upon recovery she fought to have them reinstated with her. "None of this stopped me," said Nancy. "Nope, that's when reinvention started."

PATRICIA NAVARINO-WINTERS

TEMPE, AZ

After the birth of her second son in late 2005, Patricia Navarino-Winters was diagnosed with peripartum cardiomyopathy, a rare enlargement of the heart that occurs during pregnancy. During that time, Patricia would sleep all day and had little energy to care for her two sons. She endured end-stage heart failure for five years until she received the wonderful gift of a heart from Texas teenager Taylor Storch,, who died in a skiing accident in Colorado in 2010. "Taylor's heart has been such a powerfully, strong, beautiful heart," said Patricia. Her boys are now six and seven years old, and they are able to spend quality time with their mom. Patricia was also able to return to work, exclaiming: "Life is good!"

JOHNNY ORTA

RIVERSIDE, CA

On May 10, 2010, John Orta donated a kidney to his identical twin brother Jake Orta, a rarity given that he was only 16 years old. Jake suffered from kidney disease since birth. After Jake's first transplant failed, John wanted to donate his kidney to his brother. "As a minor I had to meet with many social workers, psychiatrists, and get cleared by an ethics panel, which granted me a rare policy exception due to the maturity they felt I embodied," recounts John. A year and four months later, Jake does not take any medications because, by being his identical twin, John was a perfect match. The brothers currently attend Cal State San Bernardino and their lives have never been better or healthier.

ARNOLD PEREZ

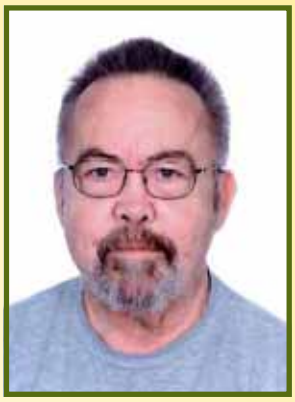
LOS ANGELES, CA

On Valentine's Day 1999, Arnold Perez's six-year-old son Hernán Aispuro died in a snow-sledding accident. With the donation of his heart, liver and kidneys, he saved four lives. "I saw how they fought to save his life, but it wasn't meant to be," said Arnold. "He was such a generous boy, we did not think twice about donating." As Embajadores de Done Vida, Arnold and his wife Eva are very active in promoting organ and tissue donation in the Latino community of Los Angeles. They share a firm belief that Hernán can continue to save more lives, not just the ones he touched directly. "He inspired us and we continue with his mission," says Arnold.

ASHLEY ANNE QUINTER

SPRING CITY, PA

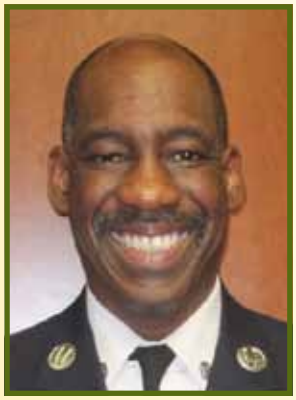
Faced with less than a month to live, Ashley Quinter's war with cystic fibrosis took a miraculous turn when she received a lung transplant the week of Thanksgiving 2009. Her donor: boxing champion Paco Rodriguez, who died after a title bout. She has since met Paco's family, who all welcomed Ashley with open arms. In fact, three of Paco's recipients and his brother Alex came to her wedding. "Less than two years ago I was sure I was going to die," said Ashley. "From here on out every accomplishment I make, every step and every breath that I take is because of Paco."



ROBERT RICHARD

INDEPENDENCE, IA

In 1967, Robert Richard was drafted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and the next year flew to Vietnam. Due to advanced kidney disease, attributed to his exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam, Robert received an honorable discharge in 1970. In 1999, Robert's kidneys deteriorated to the point of needing dialysis. His kidney transplant in June 2000 was the result of a life-saving gift from a special friend and co-worker. Robert's donated kidney continues to function extremely well. Robert and his wife Kathy have been married 45 years, with four grown children and six grandchildren. "We are very blessed by this gift," says Robert.



ANTHONY ROBINSON

BENICIA, CA

As a San Francisco fireman, Anthony Robinson's mission in life was to save others; he never thought that he would need a hero to save his own life. In February 2010, Robinson went to the hospital, and as he recalled, "It looked like I was never going to leave." His only hope was the uncertain wait for a heart transplant. Three months later came the news that someone had said "yes" to donation and his wait would end. Now an active Donate Life Ambassador, Anthony speaks to high school students and civic groups. For a man once uncertain of his future beyond a hospital bed, he's returned to a life in constant motion, always thankful to his donor and the donor's family.

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

CICERO, IL

On November 22, 2009, professional boxer Francisco "Paco" Rodriguez died from injuries sustained during a title bout in Philadelphia. When the opportunity to donate organs was raised at the hospital, Alex spoke up. "I think Paco would be very disappointed to let his heart stop beating after all of the hard work he went through to keep his body in shape. I think we should give someone else a chance." The family's decision to donate gave five people that chance, and in December 2010, the Rodriguez family met all five of Paco's recipients in a meeting shared on ESPN's "E:60" documentary series. Driven by the belief that Paco would be happy knowing he helped others, Alex is an integral part of Gift of Hope's outreach to the Hispanic community.

KATHERINE M. TAYLOR

TRAFALGAR, IN

On her way to graduate school, Kate Taylor stopped for a quarterly heart check-up and ended up enduring open heart surgery. Barely 22, all her valves were leaking and her heart had started to enlarge. Thanks to a transplanted aortic valve, Kate is alive and well. Kate wed the love of her life 29 days after surgery. She has gone on to study for her master's degree, travel, work and enjoy life. She was able to carry a pregnancy and give birth to a beautiful, healthy daughter. "For this, and so much more, I am forever grateful to the family who chose to help another during their most terrible tragedy," shared Kate.

KARA THIO
CARY, NC

Kara Thio was born with a condition called biliary atresia. Born without a bile duct, her liver was failing; Kara needed a liver transplant within 12 months or she wouldn't survive. When Kara was eight months old, a donated liver was determined to be a match for her. "I've had a few complications over the years, but 19 years post-transplant, I am healthy," said Kara, who feels fortunate to have met her donor family. Kara is also grateful for the opportunity to tell others about organ donation through Carolina Donor Services and show people how much organ donation can change someone's life.

BRANDON WITT
SHERMAN, TX

Brandon Witt and his stepfather, Thomas Pettit, were cutting firewood when Thomas slipped and fatally fell. Debi, Thomas' wife, together with Brandon, made the decision for Thomas to be a tissue donor. Brandon and one of Thomas' recipients, Joey, formed a friendship on Facebook, and two years later, they met at a Donor Appreciation Ceremony. Looking ahead to riding the Donate Life float side-by-side with Joey, Brandon said, "It's hard to believe that something so amazing can come from a tragedy, but this has blessed Joey and me with the ability not only to share our lives through friendship, but also spread the word to others about becoming a donor. This opportunity has and will continue to change many lives in the future."

MARY WU
OSSINING, NY

Mary Wu was diagnosed with chronic kidney failure at age three. At age four, Mary received her first kidney transplant, allowing her to enjoy elementary school. At age eleven, her transplanted kidney began to fail, and months later, Mary received a second kidney. "My life was saved by the parents of a girl who donated her kidneys in their time of unimaginable grief," said Mary. "I vowed to live life to the fullest and help others as a tribute." Mary is an active member of the organ donation community. "In every article, registry drive and event where I share my story, my donors and their families are there. I think about them every day."

MAX M. ZAPATA
CLOVIS, CA

Inspired by the notice on the bottom of his paycheck stubs encouraging employees to save lives through organ donation, Max Zapata got tested to be an altruistic living donor. Max was able to donate a kidney to Laura Amador, a vibrant college student stricken with kidney disease. In June 2009, they underwent surgery, which developed into a chain of donations: because his incompatible sister received a transplant, Paul gave a kidney to Kirk Larson; Kirk's wife Teresa, gave to someone else, and so on until 20 surgeries were conducted from Fresno to New York. Max's single act of giving led to ten people receiving a new life free from dialysis.

DONATE LIFE DEDICATION GARDEN

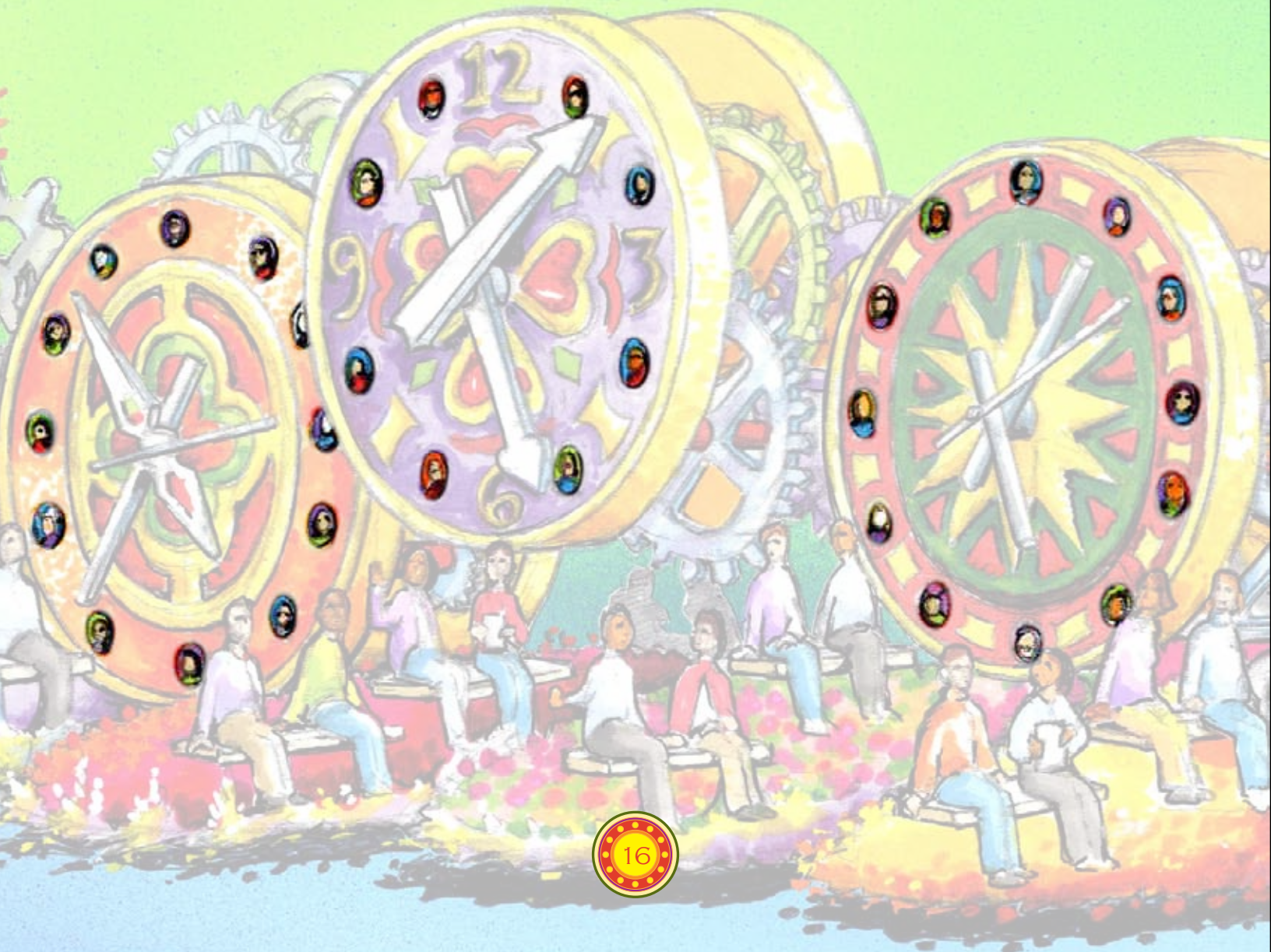
DONATE LIFE® DEDICATION GARDEN

The Donate Life Dedication Garden offers donor families, transplant recipients and candidates, hospitals, transplant centers and organizations nationwide the opportunity to dedicate roses placed on the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade, which is watched by tens of millions of people in the U.S. and worldwide each New Year.

Each dedicated rose is placed in a vial that carries a unique, personal message of love, hope and remembrance, and honors donors, recipients and others touched by organ and tissue donation. Altogether, thousands of roses create a Dedication Garden that is a featured design element on the Donate Life float each year.

DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT
FLORAGRAPH HONOREES 2012

Each year, the Donate Life float's floragraphs honor deceased organ, eye and tissue donors nationwide. Through these memorial portraits – most of which are decorated by the honorees' family members – we offer a tribute to them, their families, and donors everywhere.



A'MARION LA'KARI ADAMS

SAN BERNARDINO, CA

A'marion Adams loved basketball, computers, carnivals, jumpers and especially his family. On June 13, 2010, A'marion, only six years old, was shot in the back of the head. He was declared brain dead three days later. The Adams family decided to donate his organs so that someone else's life could go on. A'marion's mom reflected on the "...One More Day" float theme: "If I had just one more day with A'marion, I would place a king's crown upon his head, take him to a special carnival and watch his beautiful smile the whole day as he eats plenty of cotton candy and popcorn and ride, ride, ride."

EDUARDO ARELLANO

CARSON, CA

Eduardo Arellano always gave fully of himself to his work, family and friends. He always had time to lend an ear, offer wisdom or tell a person what they needed to hear. Eddie's family has witnessed the impact of Eddie's generosity, love and humor to those he cared about. This inspired his family to say "yes" to organ donation on his behalf; his family knew through his compassion and character that it was the right decision to make. Through his gift of life, he was able to save four individuals and inspire many of his family and friends to continue to spread the word about donation.

TREY ATKIN

PETALUMA, CA

Walter Wells Atkin III or "Trey" as he was affectionately known, was respected by his peers and acknowledged by adults for being an exceptionally friendly, responsible and kind person. Just after he turned 11, Trey was playing a game of chase at a birthday party when a strong gust of wind let loose a huge tree limb that fell on his head and killed him. "We are so very grateful he was in our lives and we sorely miss him," said his father Chip. "It is our consolation that, if we had to lose him, he was able to save four lives by his organ donation."

DON BOONE

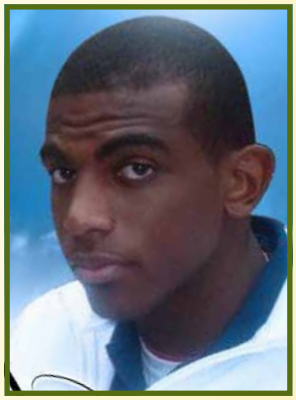
PINEVILLE, LA

Don Boone was a good-looking, fun-loving young man. In October 1992, Don's life ended due to a severe head injury. When asked to consider organ donation, his family was caught off guard. Don's mother Phyllis said, "We had never discussed organ donation, but by the grace of God we said yes." Months later, his parents discovered notes in his English notebook: "I know that I would gladly give my organs to a needy person," He had written. "Saying yes to organ donation is one of the most rewarding and positive decisions that our family has ever made," Phyllis affirmed. "Don lives on in the life of others."

TYRONE EUGENE BOWIE, JR.

BALTIMORE, MD

Tyrone Eugene Bowie, Jr. was affectionately known as 'Babyboy.' Family and friends were the most important aspects of Tyrone's life. With his wonderful sense of humor, Tyrone would brighten everyone's day. It was such a joy to be in his presence. Tyrone's character was kind, but he enjoyed a hearty debate. Although Tyrone's time on this earth was brief, he achieved many accomplishments, both academically and athletically. The proud father of a 5-month-old daughter, Tyrone personally chose to become an organ donor, and his wish was brought to fruition in Sept. 2008. His organs were received by four recipients.



DANIEL DERAY BRANNON

BIRMINGHAM, AL

Danny Brannon was a God-fearing, studious and caring person. A 2006 graduate of Carver High School, Danny was a straight-A student who played quads in the band and was fondly known as 'Bambi.' Danny studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa where he was scheduled to graduate in May 2011. Tragically, Danny was killed November 28, 2009 by a drunk driver. According to his friends, Danny was dependable for a word of encouragement, tutoring, or changing a flat tire. "You could always count on him," Said his family. When Danny's life was abruptly ended, five lives were substantially improved through his decision to donate.

ARIC BRILL

LAS VEGAS, NV

Aric Michael Brill was brilliant, focused, had a bright future, and cared about people and their well-being. While getting his learner's permit at the DMV, Aric signed up to be a donor. On February 20, 2009, Aric was shot to death while walking home from a birthday party. Six of Aric's organs were donated, and his mother recalls that as the family sat at the hospital during the organ recovery process, they felt a little hope. "The pain and despair of losing Aric eased slightly because we knew that in a few hours other people would have a second chance at life."

KYNDALL ALYSE BROWN

BALLWIN, MO

Kyndall Brown was a bundle of energy who loved books, Elmo, bubbles and kitties. She made her parents, Broc and Jennifer, slow down and appreciate the small things in life. When Kyndall was 17 months old, she choked while eating lunch. After Kyndall was rushed to the hospital, Broc and Jennifer started thinking about organ donation as they slowly realized their daughter would not survive. By donating her kidneys, liver and heart valves, Kyndall made a difference in so many lives — not only those she saved, but those of the family and friends that would have suffered with the loss of their loved one's life as well.

KIRSTIN ELIZABETH CANTLER-BOOKE

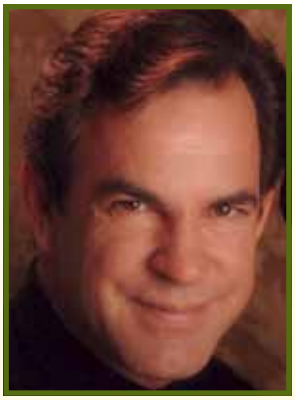
FAIRMOUNT, ND

Kirstin Elizabeth Cantler-Booke was born January 16, 2009. Three weeks before her first birthday, Kirstin and her parents went to visit family for Christmas. On the road, they hit a patch of black ice and their car was thrown into a concrete pillar. Kirstin was rushed to the hospital and passed away on Christmas Eve. Kirstin was able to donate tissue,helping people ranging in age from 13 to 46 in at least 12 different states. "We are grateful that she is able to live on through her gifts. She was the light of our lives and her smile could melt your heart," said grandparents Chris and Dawn Cantler.

JOSÉ ALFREDO CARRILLO

EL MONTE, CA

José Alfredo Carrillo was a recent high school graduate when his life was cut short. He had always been a good son, very respectful, a great brother to his three siblings, and a great friend. His mother, Maria, had never discussed donation with her son, but she knew he would have wanted to assist those in need. His corneas went to two young women, a gift that makes his mother especially proud, as does knowing that more than 50 people have benefited from his tissue donation. She finds comfort knowing that when he left this world, he left the gift of life behind for others.



LAWRENCE (LARRY) GENE CAVENAH

BAKERSFIELD, CA

Born and raised in Kansas, Larry Cavenah was a "country boy" at heart. Easygoing and friendly, Larry saw all people as equals. He was a dedicated citizen, always willing to give his fair share. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War. Sadly, Larry passed away in May 2004, of a heart-attack. True to his giving nature, Larry had decided long before his death to donate tissue and organs to benefit others. He said, "Once I am gone, it only makes sense to give what I can to help others...I won't need it then!" If one person benefited from what he gave, Larry would be extremely proud and happy.

CHRISTIAN CHAMBERLAIN

ATLANTA, GA

Friday, August 28, 2003 started out like many other days for the Chamberlains. After school, seven-year-old Christian went to his grandparent's house where his mom, Tara, picked him up. On the way home, they were hit head-on by an SUV. At the hospital, test after test proved that Chris would be in a comatose state for the rest of his life. Two weeks after the accident, the Chamberlains made the decision to let Chris go peacefully. The Chamberlains' youngest son, Izayah, was born with a kidney condition, so Christian was very familiar with organ donation. "We decided to let Chris help others to have an opportunity to live healthier lives," said the Chamberlains.

SCOTT PATRICK CONRAD

ROCHESTER, NY

Born on Oct. 13, 1980, Scott Patrick Conrad was a wonderful person, always willing to help anyone at any time. On March 13, 2010, Scott was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive and not breathing. "When the doctor approached us about organ donation, we knew immediately what Scott's wishes were. Scott had talked about this with his brother and sister," said Scott's mom, Helene Ehmann, "Our journey has not been easy, but we thank God for the opportunity to make a difference in other people's lives. People may not remember when or how Scott died, but they will never forget what he did for others by donating his organs."

SCOTT EDWIN DAVIS

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

Scott Edwin Davis was a championship wrestler, skilled musician, outstanding surfer, skateboarder, sport fisherman and a friend with a smile, heart and spirit that affected everybody he knew. Scott was only 19 when he was killed in a skateboarding accident. When it became clear to the family that a miracle was not going to happen for Scott, a decision was made to donate his organs. Scott donated to five individuals that needed organ transplants. "Although his presence is missed, his optimism and passion for happiness continues to serve as an inspiration for all of us that knew him," said his mother, Mindy Davis.

JEREMY M. DOYLE

CHILLICOTHE, OH

Jeremy Doyle loved life, greeting everyone with a smile and a handshake. On September 18, 1998, Jeremy woke up early. It was a big day: he was going to propose to his girlfriend! Less than five minutes after Jeremy left his sister's house to go propose, a car ran a red light and Jeremy was thrown from his motorcycle. He never recovered. Jeremy's status as an organ donor was never in question. As a result of Jeremy's donation, four people's lives were saved and two received the gift of sight. It is a comfort to his family that his organ recipients are still alive and enjoying life.

MIKE DUNNAM

FANNETT, TX

Mike Dunnam came into this world quickly walking, talking and always finding adventure. When Mike was ten, he lost his only sibling when his 16-year-old brother Jeremy was in a fatal car accident and became a tissue donor. It was something he also wanted to do. "He didn't understand why anyone would not choose to be a donor," said his mother Valerie. At age 22, like his brother twelve years before, Mike died in a fatal car accident on Sept. 5, 2009. "I continue to experience that 'Mother's Pride' and know that others will remember him and live healthier, happier lives because of him," said Valerie.

HEATH RIVER EILAND

AUSTIN, TX

Heath Eiland did it all. He was assertive, held firm to his beliefs, knew what he wanted out of life and was preparing for the future. On May 10, 2011, Heath suffered head injuries from a fall while long boarding; Heath had not been wearing a helmet. "It was not a very difficult decision for our family to agree to donate for life," said his mother Becky. "It was so 'Heath-like.' As painful as it continues to be for our family and his friends, we take comfort in knowing that when God called Heath home, Heath was happy, with friends, doing what he loved to do."

BRIAN ELLIS

DOWNEY, CA

Brian Christian Ellis was born November 1, 1978 with severe hydrocephalus. His family was told that Brian would not achieve much in life. Brian surprised everyone, learning to sit up, walk and talk. He never grew mentally past the age of a child, but he grew up healthy and happy. The shunt he received at two weeks of age lasted 31 years, until the surgery to replace it led to an infection that took his life. In his passing, Brian gave life to six people. "We are very proud of Brian," said his mother Diane. "So many thought he would not achieve much in his life, but look what he has done! What a legacy!"

KATHERINE DELIA ENOS

WESTFORD, MA

Katie Enos was an athlete, musician, composer and avid writer of poems, stories and songs. On June 29, 2010 Katie was hit by a car as she walked home from soccer camp. That night the doctors told her family there was nothing they could do for Katie. Katie's family recounts how they knew Katie wanted to be an organ donor. "Katie had told us that she thought it was ridiculous that everyone was not willing to be an organ donor. So, as she wished, we donated her organs and four people's lives changed dramatically." Katie got to check one more item off the "bucket list" posted on her wall: to save a life.

STELLA ESPINO

EL PASO, TX

In February 2010, Stella Espino died unexpectedly of a brain hemorrhage at the age of 44. Stella and her husband Juan were preparing to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Stella was known for her love of helping others and for her generous spirit; the same was true following her death. It was her lifelong dream to be a donor and when the time came, she was able to donate. The donation, which included her heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, bones, tissue and corneas, saved eight lives and helped 85 others.

JESSE MILLER GAMBLE

LEXINGTON, SC

Jesse Miller Gamble had an artist's soul, a joyous spirit and a smile that was simply beautiful. He loved his friends and family and attended the prestigious South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. In August, 2008 he was killed by a drunk driver while riding his bicycle home from work. Jesse was only 19 years old. When getting his first driver's license, Jesse had decided that he wanted his organs donated to help others when he passed away. As Jesse lay in the ICU, Lynn didn't hesitate as she honored her son's wishes in her most painful moment. Jesse's gifts of life saved seven people.

JANEEN MARIE GANAHL

CORONA, CA

Just two weeks prior to the auto accident that took her life at the age of 11, Janeen Ganahl told her mother that if anything happened to her, she wanted to donate her organs. "She was a very loving child and always thought of the needs of others," recalled her grandmother Sharron. Loving and creative, at nine Janeen wrote a poem, "I Am The Rose," that a teacher submitted in a contest. Of 277 entries authored by 4th through 12th graders, hers was one of 18 selected. " Our precious Rose is now living in the hearts of those she touched, for nothing loved is ever lost, and she was loved so much," Sharon said.

MICHAEL DEON (RUDY) GILMORE

WEST HELENA, AR

Michael Gilmore was a fun-loving, carefree, outgoing 24-year-old. In April, 2010, police discovered Michael in his apartment, dead of a gunshot wound. Police are still searching for the killer. One of Michael's journal entries read, "The meaning of my life is to help others...I was put here to help people some way or somehow." Before Michael got his driver's license, he told his mom he was going to be an organ donor. "Why shouldn't I? I won't need them," he told her. Michael's legacy will continue to live on through the donation of his vital organs, giving others another chance at life.

CHRISTINA-TAYLOR GREEN

TUCSON, AZ

Born September 11, 2001, Christina-Taylor Green developed a sense of caring and hope for others as she grew up. The Greens discussed organ donation when Christina-Taylor's grandmother passed away. They decided as a family they would all be organ donors. "We're grateful we did. When Christina-Taylor passed away, we were grief stricken," recounted her mother Roxanna. The Greens agreed to donate whatever they could. This was a difficult decision even after discussing organ donation before Christina's passing. "We will never forget the uplifting of our spirits when we received the news that Christina's corneas saved the eyesight of two people," said Roxanna. Christina would be proud of the legacy she has left behind. Roxanna is proud to ride on the Donate Life float to honor her daughter and to encourage cornea, organ and tissue donation.

ANGELA MARIE GUEST

ALLEN, TX

Angela Marie Guest began college as a nursing student in 2009. Angela's last week of life included a special trip to see her uncle. During dinner, Angela suffered an unexplainable stroke and died 24 hours later. She was only 19. A week before Angela's death, she was reading about another young girl's death and with confidence told her mother and sister, "I want to donate all my organs when I die." She did just that, helping to save seven lives. "Angela always wanted to help others and this was her greatest gift," said her mother Susan. "It gives us great joy to know that Angela is still helping others even after her death."

JOSE GUTIERREZ

FILLMORE, CA

Jose Gutierrez was a simple and humble man. He enjoyed reading and was an avid supporter of education. Jose delved into literature and practiced English whenever he could. He loved the ocean, enjoyed the outdoors and treasured morning walks whenever he visited new places. He had a positive attitude and optimistic view of life. In May of 2006, his family made the collective decision to donate their father's organs after he suffered severe brain trauma. "We knew that organ donation was the right thing to do," said his children. "Two years later our lives have been deeply enriched by the donation experience."

TRAVIS S.E. HANSEN

SIMI VALLEY, CA

Travis Hansen was a good, energetic 12-year-old boy. Behaving in goofy ways, he would always try to make people laugh. He had a love of the military and enjoyed watching "Band of Brothers." Riding his bike was his ticket to freedom. Unfortunately, he was struck and killed while riding to school in Sept. 2007. When he was declared brain dead, the decision to donate was easy, yet the means to the end and finality of it all made it so very difficult. "If I could prevent just one family from having to go through what I just did, Travis' death would not be meaningless," said his father, Stephen.

BRANDON ROSS HARNEY

AUBURN, WA

Brandon Harney was a very outgoing and active 16-year-old. He loved learning, laughing and making others smile. Most of all, Brandon loved life and all it brought. July 31, 2000, his mother Shirley was informed that after his bicycle was hit by a car, Brandon had a brain injury that typically isn't survivable. The following day, Shirley was approached and asked if she had ever considered organ and tissue donation. "My response was 'No, but absolutely yes.'" Brandon became an organ and tissue donor and left his legacy of life for others. "These gifts of life were given out of my love for Brandon and his love for life and others," said Shirley.

LACEY MARY HAYE

KIMBERLY, ID

Lacey Haye grew up on a ranch in Kimberly, Idaho. She was active; besides her school activities she golfed, fished, skied, hiked, kayaked and tried ice climbing with her brother. What Lacey excelled in the most was loving others. There was no such thing as race, age or gender to Lacey; she was able to connect with everybody. Her mom remembers being at the DMV the day Lacey registered to be an organ donor. Her donation decision was honored after she lost control of a small motorcycle she was riding and slid into oncoming traffic. She was only 19. Lacey is tremendously missed by her family, friends and community.

KRISTA D. HEIDINGER

LETHBRIDGE, AB, CANADA

Krista Heidinger was a teacher, basketball coach and mother who loved spending time with family and friends. In August 2009, Krista and husband Jared were awaiting the arrival of their third child. On August 26, their healthy little girl was introduced to the world. Things were well until three days later, when Krista mentioned a pain in her calf muscle. After collapsing at home, she was rushed to the hospital, where a brain scan showed massive damage caused by a pulmonary embolism. She became an organ donor candidate and her husband knew what Krista would have wanted. "I felt like if she could have spoken, she would have said, 'Jared, let's save some lives.'"

SIERRA LYNN HEIDRICH

LAKE ELSINORE, CA

Although she was only five years old, Sierra Heidrich had a spirit about her. Sierra cared about and wanted to take care of everyone. On December 10, 2006, Sierra and her family were hit head-on by a drunk driver. When her family learned that Sierra was brain dead, the entire family made the decision to donate Sierra's organs. "I knew that if we couldn't have our Christmas miracle, we wanted someone else to have theirs," said Amber, Sierra's aunt. "We look forward to watching the Rose Parade and seeing her beautiful face make us smile once again."

ERIC MICHAEL HELM

JENISON, MI

Eric Michael Helm was five months from graduating high school when he left home the morning of January 12, 2010. While driving he crossed the center line, hit a truck head-on and died at the scene. Eric had not talked about becoming an organ and tissue donor, but had expressed to his mother Kim how proud he was of what his father Bob did for a living as an organ donor coordinator for Gift of Life Michigan. Eric looked forward to New Year's Day and all the college football games and parades every year. "He would be incredibly honored to be part of this float," said Kim.

MARC HENNING

CROSSVILLE, IL

Marc Henning was a loving and considerate son and a fun-loving brother. He was a humanitarian, handsome, generous and honest. As a senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, he was active in Engineers Without Borders and loved to be close to the action as football team manager. On September 15, 2010, Marc ended his life. The next day, his parents, Linda and Van made the decision to donate Marc's organs and tissues. Ten months later, his mother Linda would receive an extraordinary gift: a graft for a dental procedure created from Marc's bone tissue. Marc was a hero to those who received life from his gifts, including his mother.

JORDAN HOUSE

PLAINFIELD, IN

Jordan House was always very loving and giving. She volunteered her time with disabled children and went on mission trips with the Plainfield Christian Church. On February 27, 2008, 17-year-old Jordan began complaining about a headache. Eventually, Jordan was placed in a drug-induced coma. A few weeks later, an MRI showed Jordan had Locked in Syndrome with minimal brain stem function; she was never going to recover. Jordan was a registered donor, and her family wanted to do everything possible to honor her decision to help others. Jordan saved four people through her donation. Jordan's organ donation has helped the House family deal with their loss.

CHIH-CHIEN HSIAO

NEW TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN

Chih-Chien Hsiao was a life-loving and sociable freshman at the Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan. In 2005 a tragic accident took his life as he rode his scooter to school. His mother, Shen-Hui Shu signed the organ donation consent form reluctantly, and on Dec. 1, 2005, Chih-Chien donated his heart, liver, kidneys and tissue, benefiting over 60 recipients. One day, Shen-Hui was watching a TV program about organ donation. The young man on the screen was the recipient of Chih-Chien's liver, who said, "I want to thank my donor. Because of you, I will live courageously." Shen-Hui then realized the miracle her son had helped to create.

ANDREW CLAY JOHNSON

BENTON, KY

A donor at the age of eleven, Andrew Clay Johnson's short life was filled with love for everyone he knew. He had a smile that could wrap around the world. Andrew was in a fatal ATV accident July 2008. The Johnson family has expressed that they have peace and comfort in knowing that a part of Andrew lives on in many. The family established a scholarship fund in Andrew's name to be awarded to his classmates in the Marshall County High School Class of 2015, providing them with hope and inspiration for their future: gifts wrapped with Andrew's love.

RON KERKVLIET

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN

Born and raised in Marshall, Minn., Ron Kerkvliet joined the military and served in the U.S. Army in Greenland. After, he moved to the Twin Cities with his wife, Marilyn, and raised four children. Ron's donation story began in 2006 when his 16-year-old granddaughter Deanna became a donor after being tragically killed in a car accident. Then, on July 6, 2011, Ron passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. In accordance with Ron's wishes and following the inspiring example set by Deanna, his tissues were donated. "We take some comfort that our loved ones were able to pass on the gift of life through donation," said Marilyn.

ELIJAH R. LEE

DOWNEY, CA

Elijah Lee was 35, strong, handsome and funny. January 20, 2007, he became the victim of a drive-by shooting. At the hospital, the donation coordinator made room next to Elijah so that his wife, Tracy could lie beside him. Tracy recalls, "My eyes filled with tears; I was able to lay my head on his chest for nearly two hours. I closed my eyes and slept snuggled up to him." As helicopters arrived, Tracy recalled, a nurse came in and said, 'Do you hear that? All that's for him.' I was so proud at that moment. His gift of life was going to save others," said Tracy.

ADAM LONG

NASHVILLE, TN

Adam Long would describe himself as a regular guy who loved his family and friends, cooking, conversation and watching sports. He was certified as a Kansas City BBQ judge at age 14 and followed that path, working in the food industry for the rest of his life. He was only 27 when he died in an auto accident in January 2010, but he subtly displayed characteristics of a much older, wizened person. Said his family, "If Adam had his way, he would have asked that someone else be honored with a floragraph on the Donate Life Float instead of him. He was quietly more about others than himself."

MERLE MANGANIELLO

SAN DIEGO, CA

When she was born, children with cystic fibrosis (CF) rarely survived to school age. But Merle Brodsky Manganiello never let the challenging illness define her. She graduated from American University, worked at the Pentagon, married Lou, the love of her life, and started her own jewelry design business. When CF made breathing almost impossible, Merle received a double lung transplant at UCSD Medical Center – a precious gift from her donor Chad that gave her family an additional nine years of life. She was adamant she wanted to be a donor, too, and was able to give the precious gift of sight and tissue to others.

SYBIL ELIZABETH MCFALL

SYRACUSE, NY

Born in Syracuse, N.Y. and raised nearby, Sybil McFall met her husband Joe during her MFA studies at the University of Georgia. . When she found she was pregnant with a son she was deeply happy. Sadly, she never got to see her son. She suffered a severe brain injury two weeks before her due date and did not survive. She had indicated that she wished to be an organ donor. While her family suffered a great loss in Sybil, they were able to take some comfort in the fact that she gave life to many others, including the 11-year-old girl who received her heart..

MELANIE ANN MIERS

SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Melanie Miers was very loving and compassionate. In November, 2005, Melanie informed her mother that she would like to put the pink donor dot on her driver's license. Melanie had the privilege of donating her heart, liver, kidneys and pancreas. "Through all our pain and sorrow we felt some comfort knowing that Melanie's wish to be a donor was granted," says Linda, Melanie's mom, "If Melanie didn't say anything about wanting to put the pink dot on her driver's license I probably would have said no because of my ignorance toward donation; that is why I tell people now to educate themselves on donation."

HEATHER NICOLE MILLER

TRIADELPHIA, WV

Heather Miller died March 31, 2008, from injuries she sustained as a result of a horrific car crash caused by a drunk driver. Heather was an organ donor. It was her choice to give the gift of life. "As parents, we never imagined what an impact this could make on our family as well as our community of Wheeling," said Heather's mother Jody. She described the experience of meeting Heather's recipients: "It is an amazing feeling to meet people that have had a second chance at life because of our daughter. We have truly learned the meaning of "One More Day.""

ERICA MARIE STEWART MULLINS

APPALACHIA, VA

Erica Mullins was a wonderful mother and loved her two children dearly. "She was a people person and was always willing to help in any way she could," said her mother, Michele Stacy. In May 2005, Erica died in an automobile accident. After the accident, Erica lived for two days on ventilator support and then was pronounced brain dead. "I knew that Erica had on her driver's license that she wanted to be an organ donor and I wanted to honor her wish," said Michelle.

PATRICK SHANE NUNNELLEY

MESQUITE, TX

Patrick Nunnelley was born with a tint of his mom's red hair and was never a big kid. It didn't take him long to realize he needed to develop his humorous side so he would not be picked on. He had recently decided that he wanted to become a firefighter, and was starting college in fall of 2010. On July 24, 2010 Patrick was helping a friend when his life was cut short. "The only solace I have is knowing the unselfish decision was made to give someone else a chance at life," said his mother Kim. "Truly that's what Patrick would've wanted."

"ANYA" CHIEMEKA OGBUJI

SHAKER HEIGHTS, OH

Full of life and laughter, Anyachiemeka (Anya) was a beautiful baby who brought joy to her family. On December 1, 2007, there was an electrical fire at the house where the children were being watched by babysitters. The fire claimed the lives of Anya's two older sisters (Imose 6 years old and Chikaora 2 years old) and eventually her own. It was the joy and peace that she gave to her family that made the decision to donate an easy one. "Another family needed what Anya had so they could experience the joy we had," said her mother, Roschelle Ogbuji.

JEFFREY C. O'ROURKE

BOTHELL, MO

Jeffrey Clayton O'Rourke excelled in math, and graduated at the top of his high school class in 1975. Jeff married Lissa in March 1996, a year after they first met, and were blessed with two children. Jeff's life was cut short when he died suddenly in August of 2010. He was only 53. Because of Jeff's big heart, he made the decision long ago that he wanted to help others after his passing as an organ donor. "We can take solace in the fact that Jeff's compassion for others is keeping other lives moving forward," said Lissa.

CHRISTOPHER PATURZO III

DOWNEY, CA

Christpher Paturzo III was a very active and energetic boy. Always interested in motorcycles, Chris enjoyed taking trips to ride his dirt bike and quads. One night, on his way home from a family dinner at his favorite restaurant, Chris was in a motorcycle accident. Chris had massive internal injuries; after six days, he was declared brain dead. "Since Chris had such a kind heart and was always reaching out to help others, we consented to donation," said his mom, Judi. "This is helping our family in our difficult journey towards hope and healing. I am honored to share my son's story with others in hopes that they, too, will consider donation."

ROBERTO DEJESUS PEREZ

NORTH BERGEN, NJ

Beloved son Roberto DeJesus Perez graduated from North Bergen High School in 1997. His goal was to graduate from college and work for the United Nations. At the age of 18, Roberto lost his life to a brain aneurysm; in the aftermath he became an organ donor, saving the lives of five people. The decision to donate Roberto's organs was made by his father, Carlos. "He helped me understand that this was the right thing to do," said Roberto's mother Maria. "Today I find great comfort in knowing that Robert's spirit lives on through the numerous lives he saved."

DYLAN PETERS

BURLINGTON, VT

Running, climbing, jumping and flipping best describe each day in the zest-filled life of Dylan Peters. Dylan was an ambitious, nationally competitive snowboarder who won the US Snowboard Association Junior Men's Slopestyle National Championship in April 2010 at age 17. At Nationals, they met Olympic snowboarder and liver recipient Chris Klug. In April 2011, a week after he turned 18, Dylan was in an auto accident he couldn't survive. There was never any question that he would be a donor. Dylan was able to donate five organs and all possible tissue. His mother Sue said, "Dylan's story has changed numerous people's minds about organ donation in our communities."

THOMAS A. PETTIT

SHERMAN, TX

Thomas Anthony Pettit loved kids and doing volunteer work for the local youth baseball and softball associations. Thomas's willingness to help others led him to assist a friend with cutting firewood. On Dec. 22, 2007, Thomas, along with his stepson Brandon Witt, was cutting the firewood from a tall stack of downed trees when Thomas slipped and fell, suffering a fatal injury. Acknowledging his giving nature, Thomas's family chose donation on his behalf. Thomas Pettit's donation resulted in 82 grafts, which have been life changing and life enhancing for recipients in need of transplanted tissues.

LISA MARIE POND

LACEY, WA

Lisa and her life partner, Janice Langbehn, committed themselves to each other in October of 1991. From this moment on, Lisa dedicated her life to helping others. From 1992 to 2007, Lisa and Janice fostered 25 children, legally adopting four who had special needs. Lisa gave up her career to stay home with their children. In February 2007, Lisa suddenly collapsed from a cerebral aneurysm. Fortunately, Lisa had made it clear that if her organs could be used to help others, that is what must happen. Donating Lisa's organs would be one of the easiest decisions Janice would make in their 18 years together.

HAILEY RATH

BELOIT, WI

Hailey Rath was a dynamic, outgoing thirteen-year-old who loved life. She played volleyball, basketball, softball and had a brown belt in karate. Hailey had a big heart and loved to help. She loved to go four-wheeling and if she didn't get muddy, she didn't have fun. Hailey's life was tragically cut short at the age of 13 due to injuries she sustained in an automobile accident. In her passing she became an organ and tissue donor. Hailey's dad, Jeff, sings at local county fairs, all the while telling Hailey's story and promoting organ donation. Hailey is remembered with the annual Hailey Rath Memorial Event, now in its fifth year.

NICOLE LYNN RICHARDSON

JEFFERSON, IA

A graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law, Nicole Lynn Richardson had a passion for providing legal representation for society's vulnerable populations. Nicole died in an accident in Grand Junction, Colo. on April 25, 2006. Nicole's commitment to organ donation was evident on her driver's license, and as a result her lungs, kidneys, heart, pancreas, liver and corneas have saved or enhanced the lives of seven others. Particularly meaningful to Nicole's family is that a recipient of one of Nicole's kidneys is a long-time family friend. "Being able to see what Nicole's compassion has meant to our friend has brought us considerable peace," her parents said.

CLINT ADAM RIVERA

NORWALK, CA

Clint Adam Rivera came into this world ready to take over. He loved music, and as a teenager he and his friends formed a band; Clint would always say that he was going to be a legend. At 15 he met the love of his life, and they shared a destiny as donors at a tragically early age. "It's comforting to know he is not completely gone, that he continues to live in all 50-plus people who benefited from his gift of life," said his mother Carol.

FRANCISCO "PACO" RODRIGUEZ

CHICAGO, IL

Born in Chicago to Mexican parents, Francisco "Paco" Rodriguez took pride in his heritage and eventually gained the nickname "El Niño Azteka" (The Aztek Kid) as a local boxer. Paco's talent and love for the sport made boxing more than a hobby; it became his career. On November 19, 2009, Paco tragically passed away from injuries sustained in a boxing match. Paco and his wife, Sonia, had discussed organ and tissue donation and felt that it was important to help others through donation. "Paco is now a hero to five people who are alive today because of his selfless decision to donate life," said Sonia.

PAUL G. ROSSMEISSL

HERNDON, VA

Paul Rossmeissl was born in Appleton, Wis., the youngest of three children. He grew up in Green Bay and earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in experimental psychology. An avid reader who had a multitude of eclectic hobbies and diverse interests, Paul was known and admired for his gifts of love and caring. He lived each day to its fullest with humor and joy. Paul was 54 when he died on June 7, 2006, from injuries sustained in a bicycle accident. As a result of this tragedy, he gave the gift of life to three individuals and improved many others through tissue donation.

ALICIA JEANNETTE SABAUGH

LEAWOOD, KS

Alicia was a healthy 27-year-old who had just completed her first semester of law school in 2009. Alicia wanted to make a difference in the world, and organ donation fulfilled one of her wishes. About three months before Alicia's accident, she was watching a news story about organ transplants. Her parents recalled, "She asked us not to bury her organs if she was ever at the point of no return. We knew we were making the right decision because Alicia had told us what to do. We are privileged and grateful that we were able to fulfill Alicia's final wish."

JAYCE RAY SHEFFIELD

WEWOKA, OK

Jayce Ray Sheffield was a 12-year-old who always said he was going to be famous. Jayce was active in football, basketball, and baseball, and also loved the sport of rodeo. He played drums in the school band and was a Boy Scout. Jayce was also on a committee to design and develop a skateboard park in Wewoka. On April 5, 2006, Jayce's 4-wheeler accidently flipped over, tragically killing him on impact. Jayce's family found comfort in knowing a part of Jayce still lives on through others. On April 3, 2007, what would have been his thirteenth birthday; the Jayce Ray Sheffield Memorial Skate Park was dedicated and opened to the City of Wewoka.

RYAN CODY STUCK

BAKERSFIELD, CA

Ryan Cody Stuck was caring and thoughtful. From football to wrestling, snowboarding to golfing, Ryan was a sports fan. Unfortunately, on April 10, 2010, Ryan's life came to an end. He was only 22 years old and full of life. He had registered to be a donor without telling anyone. "It's a very sad and painful situation to lose a child so young, but it's a great feeling to know he did someone good," said his parents, Mike and Brenda. Ryan's family had a memorial golf tournament for him. "Many people told us that they registered to be a donor due to Ryan's story," said his parents.

ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

TUCSON, AZ

Liz Sutherland was smart, independent and adventurous. She arrived on Maui in 1989. She fell in love with the ocean and the beautiful tropical lifestyle. She made dear friends, worked hard, and took full advantage of all the wonderful outdoor activities on the island. In 2009, Elizabeth's Hawaii adventure ended on a joy-filled sunset horseback ride. At the time she suffered a brain aneurysm, she was laughing with friends and left the world happy. She touched many lives with her humor and compassion. She would be thrilled to know that she has helped others to live healthier lives through her gift of donation.

DREW SWANK

POST FALLS, ID

Drew Swank was the sixth of eight children. He grew up with a passion for the great outdoors and had great fun playing soccer, football and snowboarding. Drew enjoyed history, geography and studying maps, and was a joy to talk to and spend time just hanging out. He suffered a severe head injury during a football game. "When our family was asked about organ donation, all of us strongly supported giving the gift of Drew's life to others. Drew is a hero in our eyes because his gift of life has saved and improved the lives of seven others," said his mother, Patti Swank.

RIE TANAKA

TOKYO, JAPAN

Although Rie Tanaka died in an unfortunate accident eleven years ago, she had a donor card, and everyone in her family wanted to see through her wish to be an organ donor. They fulfilled her wish by donating her organs to seven recipients in March 2000 in Tokyo, Japan. Rie was only the fifth organ donor after brain death in Japan, following the enactment of the Organ Transplant Act of 1997. "Through her wish, Rie taught us the preciousness and nobility of life with a sense of gratitude," said her father, Kazuyuki Tanaka, "My daughter Rie is alive, shining bright as a jewel in the seven recipients of her organs."

AMANDA THOMPSON

SAGINAW, MI

Amanda Sue Thompson lived her life carefree and one day at a time, loving her family and friends. Whenever Amanda would see anyone in trouble or need, she was always there for them. Amanda had a congenital heart defect which was undiagnosed until December 2010, when she suffered a stroke caused by a blood clot traveling to her brain. "Amanda never discussed her wish to donate," said her parents, "but when the time came, we did not have to think twice. We knew that she would want to help others with her gift of life. Amanda will always be a hero in our eyes, our loving caring daughter."

JEFFREY R. TOPPING

SUFFOLK, VA

Jeffrey Ross Topping loved riding fast roller-coasters. In high school, he was on the varsity wrestling team and excelled in math and Latin. Jeff's passion for Harley-Davidson Motorcycles began in 2006; eventually he convinced his father, stepmother and brother to start riding. At Thomas Nelson Community College he graduated magna cum laude in 2009. While working and studying, he tutored fellow students and coworkers. In 2010, Jeff passed away unexpectedly at age 31. "His eyes have been used in two successful corneal transplants, sotwo people can now see because of the donation of his eyes," said his family. "It helps knowing that Jeff was able to help more people.".

JULIO VILLEGAS, JR.

PALMDALE, CA

Throughout his childhood and into his early teen years, Julio Villegas, Jr. was a very giving child with a big heart. His friends describe Julio as sincere, unselfish, compassionate, loving, independent, courageous, daring, determined and forgiving. was After he was murdered in a drive-by shooting, Julio donated his kidneys, liver and his corneas, the latter of which granted two people the gift of sight. According to his mother Michelle, Julio had goals, and "although he will never be able to achieve them, his gift of organ donation has given someone else a chance to accomplish theirs. He will always be loved and cherished and never forgotten.

TOMMY WEISS

ALISO VIEJO, CA

Ten-year-old Tommy Weiss would do anything for a friend or family member. He made friends easily. A car accident left Tommy in coma, leading to his death in the hospital. His parents discussed donation, and decided that Tommy would be an organ donor. Donating his heart to someone in need would have come naturally to Tommy. "Tommy would be gratified that his heart recipient, who was 13 years old at the time and is now a Stanford graduate, and his family have become an important part of our family. This is the beauty that arose from a tragedy," said Tommy's mother Donna.

SHAWN WERO

BLOOMFIELD, NM

Shawn Wero was a giving person and lived life to the fullest. He was gentle, strong and talented. He was quick to establish friendships; he was so helpful, always going the extra way to help someone. Shawn Wero truly was a gift not only to his family, his Navajo People, but even to strangers. After suffering a brain hemorrhage caused by a fall, his final noble gesture was the donation of his organs. Inspired by his sister Sabrina's donation of a kidney to their father, he knew it was a chance for others to keep their loved ones just a little while longer.

MARIAH WEST

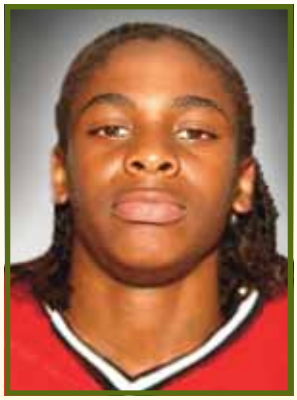
ROGERS, AR

Mariah West was driving to a ballgame the day before her high school graduation. She was getting directions via text message when she lost control of her car; the accident caused massive head trauma. "We made the choice to donate her eyes, organs and tissue because by nature she was a very giving person," said her mother Merry. "We felt that if she was a little bit more mature she would have made this choice herself since it was more consistent with her character."

KIMBERLEY ROCHELLE WILLIAMS-IBARRA

EL SORBANTE, CA

On October 24, 2010, Kimberley Rochelle Williams-Ibarra suffered a blood clot in her lungs, which took her life. Kimberley had expressed to her family her wishes to be an organ and tissue donor for many years. As the Manager of the Walnut Creek Department of Motor Vehicles field office, Kimberley had the opportunity to see firsthand how the partnership between the DMV and Donate Life California had made a difference in thousands of lives. Kimberley's decision to be an organ and tissue donor was honored. "Kimberley believed in helping others," said Rae Williams, Kimberley's mother. "Being a donor in Kimberley's eyes was an honor. She was truly someone special."



JOVANTE WOODS

CINCINNATI, OH

Jovante Woods was a wonderful child and a very respectful young man. He suffered from severe asthma, but that never deterred him from living a very full and active life. Given his father Ickey's starring role for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals, football was a big part of Jovante's family life. On August 11, 2010, after a typical hot and muggy day, Jovante went home from football practice and had an asthma attack, which caused a fatal anoxic brain injury. Jovante had designated himself as an organ and tissue donor on his license. With his organ donation, Jovante was able to save four lives and countless others as a tissue donor.

MELISSA MICHELLE YAROSH

HARRISBURG, PA

Melissa had a smile that could light up even the darkest of rooms. She exuded happiness and was rarely without a smile. One night a news story about brain death inspired her to ask what it meant. "The conversation ended with her saying, 'Well, if that ever happens to me, HELL yes, use them again.'" Recalled her mother Barbara. "Never did I imagine that I would ever need that information," especially when she was only 14. In the wake of the accident that took her life, "To know that she was able to donate kidneys to two individuals and bone to many others has helped us cope with her loss," said Barbara.

We Remember Them

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter,
we remember them.

In the warmth of the sun and the peace of summer,
we remember them.

In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.

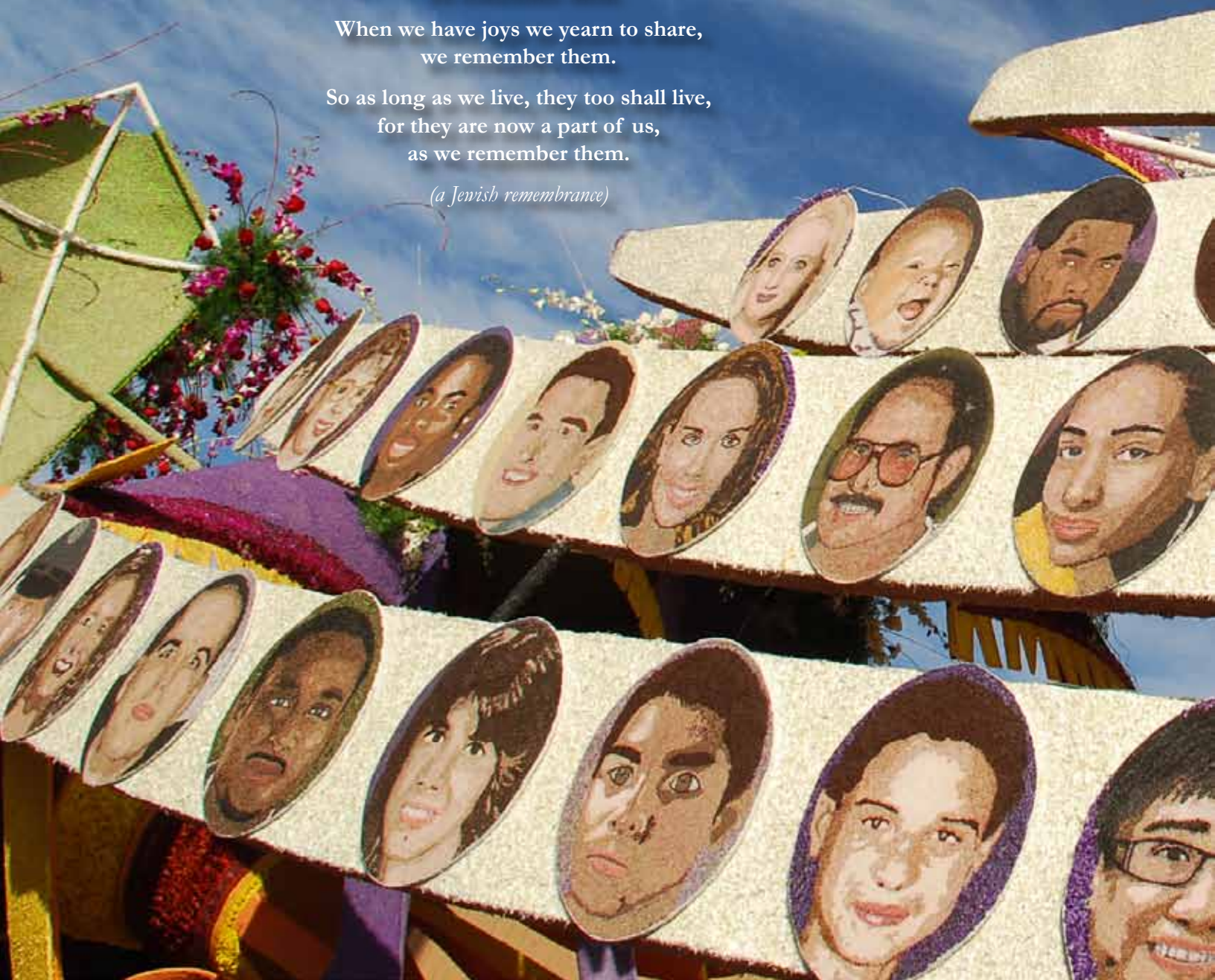
When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.

So as long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

(a Jewish remembrance)



NOTES AND CONTACTS

NOTES AND CONTACTS

MEMORIES OF PASADENA

MEMORIES OF PASADENA

AMERICA'S DONATE LIFE CELEBRATION

Thank you to the Official Sponsors whose support makes Donate Life's Rose Parade® participation possible.

BENEFACTORS

American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB)
Dignity Memorial Network
Donate Life America
eWomenNetwork Foundation
OneLegacy
UNOS and National Donor Memorial

FLOAT RIDER & FLORAGRAPH SPONSORS

Center for Donation & Transplant
CryoLife, Inc.
Donate Life Run/Walk Committee
Donor Network of Arizona
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
Gift of Life Donor Program
Indiana Organ Procurement Organization (IOPO)
Iowa Donor Network
Lifesharing

FLOAT RIDER SPONSORS

AlloSource
California Transplant Donor Network
Carolina Donor Services
Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Transplant Center
Community Tissue Services
Cytonet, LLC
Donor Alliance, Inc.
Loma Linda University Med. Ctr. Transplantation Inst.
Mayo Clinic Transplant Center
Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation
RTI Donor Services
Taylor's Gift Foundation
UKRO (University Kidney Research Organization)
Upstate New York Transplant Services, Inc.

FLORAGRAPH SPONSORS

Alabama Organ Center
Assn. for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT)
Bacterin International
Bridge to Life, Ltd.
Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation
CORE
Donate 4 Life
Donate Life California
Donate Life Float Committee
Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
Frankie Hernandez Legacy of Life Tournaments
Gift of Life Michigan
Golden State Donor Services
Heartland Lions Eye Banks
In Memory of Todd Sato
Intermountain Donor Services
JJ's Legacy
Joseph H. Helfgot Foundation
Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates
The Kingdom Kids
LABS, Inc.
Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency
LifeCenter Northwest
LifeCenter Organ Donor Network
Lifeline of Ohio
LifeSource
Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland
Legacy of Life Hawaii
Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency
Mendez National Institute of Transplantation
Mid-America Transplant Services
Mid-South Transplant Foundation, Inc.
Midwest Transplant Network
New England Organ Bank
PinnacleHealth Foundation
Sallop Insurance Agency
Salt Creek Grille Restaurants
SightLife
Spencer Squire All-Star Foundation
Tennessee Donor Services
UCLA Health System
University of Wisconsin OPO
Vaquero Energy
Washington Regional Transplant Community

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

ARORA
Centerpoint Medical Center
ConocoPhillips Los Angeles Refinery
Freeman Health System
Gary Foxen In Memory of All Donors
GOAL Productions
In Memory of Michael E. Creighton
JDI Communications, Inc.
Kidney Transplant Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Orange, CA
Lifeshare Of The Carolinas
Mercy St. John's Regional Medical Center
Morlin Asset Management LP
NATCO, The Organization for Transplant Professionals
New York Organ Donor Network
Phoenix Decorating Co.
Renal Support Network
Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City
Transplant Services Ctr. UT Southwestern Med. Ctr.
TRIO Ventura County/West Valley Chapter
UC Irvine Healthcare
United Organ Transplant Association (UOTA)
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
USC Transplant Institute
Vons
The Washington Univ. and Barnes-Jewish Transplant Ctr.

Special thanks to the individuals, families and organizations whose roses of love and remembrance fill our Donate Life Dedication Garden.